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RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000125

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DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR DAAG/CRM SWARTZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/23/2018

TAGS: [PTER PREL EU UK TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY APPEALS FOR USG HELP TO KEEP PKK ON EU
TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS' LIST

Classified By: Political Counselor Janice Weiner. Reasons: 1.4 (b)(d).

11. (C) MFA DDG for Security Affairs Sakir Torunlar appealed for U.S. support against PKK efforts to be removed from the European Union's list of terrorist organizations during a January 22 meeting with Regional Counterterrorism Coordinator. Reiterating points made by DG Hayati Guven to the Ambassador on January 18, Torunlar explained that on January 31, the Court of First Instance of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) would hear an appeal initiated by Osman Ocalan, brother of imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan.

12. (C) Turkey has no standing with the ECJ, Torunlar observed, and so is depending on the European Council and the British to persuade the judge to dismiss the appeal. The British will join the European Council before the ECJ because they initially proposed the PKK be added to the EU terrorist list in 2001, to which the EU Council agreed by consensus in 12002. Each side will have only five to ten minutes to make its case. The judge will decide based largely on the prepared written briefs. Turkey believes the EU will "stand firm" and keep the PKK on the list, but nonetheless seeks any support the U.S. can provide. Torunlar noted DG Guven had shared with the Ambassador an Aide Memoire that had also been given to the British. (Note: Post has e-mailed a copy of the document to EUR/SE and to S/CT.) A British Embassy representative subsequently remarked it was her understanding that the British government has not yet decided what role it will play in the January 31 ECJ proceedings.

13. (C) Comment. This GOT appeal comes at a sensitive juncture in the fight against the PKK, in which the USG is engaged at the highest levels. A PKK victory at the ECJ risks reinvigorating popular support for the organization on the one hand, while further inflaming nationalism in Turkey on the other. Either outcome would be damaging as we seek to further isolate this terrorist organization.

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